REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Administration Report of the Forest Department.

READ—

The Report on the Administration of the Forest Department for the 12 months ended 30th June 1924, received with letter No. 270, dated the 3rd October 1924, from the Conservator of Forests.

ORDER NO. I. C. 5451-67—FT. 137-24-5, DATED 7TH FEBRUARY 1925.

Recorded.

2. Mr. B. V. Ramiengar continued to be in charge of the Department during the year. The appointment of the Special Exploitation Officer which had been sanctioned tentatively for one year was abolished.

3. *State Forests.*—During the year under report, 14·2 sq. miles were notified as State Forests, and an area of 0·75 sq. miles which had been left out in the accounts of Bangalore and Kolar Districts added on, while about 2 sq. miles of State Forests were disafforested for purposes of cultivation. Sixty-seven sq. miles were deducted from the total area of State Forests in the Hassan District as a result of survey.

4. The Conservator complains of want of co-operation on the part of Revenue Officers with the Forest Department in respect of proposals for forest reservation; and states that the area of the State Forests which is about 13 per cent of the total area of the State can, without any inconvenience to the local people, be increased to at least 20 per cent, the additions being made chiefly from the Amrut Mahal kavals and other lands in the Kadur and Shimoga Districts. Government consider that the question cannot be dealt with on the principle of proportion, as suggested by the Conservator, as reservation should be made only when it can be undertaken with advantage to the State and without inconvenience to the local population and the selection of areas for reservation should be strictly in accordance with the recent order of Government on the scheme of Minor Forests.

5. *Forest Settlement.*—There has not been any improvement in the work of Forest Settlement, only four blocks having been settled as against five in the previous year. In addition to the eight blocks pending settlement at the beginning of 1920 when the office of the Special Settlement Officer was abolished, 22 blocks were reserved under Section 4 of the Forest Regulation during the four years ending with the 30th June 1924. Of these, 17 are reported to have been settled during the period by the Revenue Sub-Division Assistant Commissioners, leaving a balance of 13 blocks for settlement. Government regret to notice that notwithstanding repeated instructions the work is allowed to fall in arrears. The suggestion of the Conservator for the appointment of a wholetime Forest Settlement Officer does not commend itself to Government. They consider that the work that remains to be done is not heavy enough to justify the appointment of a separate officer and that with more energetic action on the part of the Revenue Sub-Division Officers, it should be possible for the work to be completed early. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to expedite the report called for in the Government Order reviewing the previous year's report, regarding the measures to be adopted to ensure satisfactory progress of Forest Settlement work by the Sub-Division Officers.

6. *Demarcation.*—Out of a total length of 6,193 miles of forest boundary, a length of 521 miles remained to be demarcated at the end of the year. The work done during the year consisted of the cutting of 20 miles of permanent lines and 67½ miles of preliminary lines. The Conservator of Forests attributes the poor progress to the inadequacy of funds; but it is not clear from the report whether the provision made for the purpose has been fully utilised. A large provision has, however, been made in the current year's budget and it is hoped that substantial progress will be shown in the course of the year.

7. *Forest Surveys.*—An area of 52 square miles inclusive of 27 square miles of State Forests was surveyed during the year leaving a balance of only 198 square miles of State Forests, chiefly in the Malnad. In addition to this, it is stated that a large extent of reserved lands and plantations which may be converted into State Forests before long remains to be surveyed. Government consider that for the present, the survey may be confined to State Forests already constituted and that the survey of the other lands may well be deferred until they are actually constituted into State Forests. The progress made in surveying operations up till now has not been quite satisfactory. The Conservator of Forests is requested to see that better and more satisfactory results are shown by the officers entrusted with this work.

8. *Damage to sandal trees.*—Though there was an improvement in the disposal of cases of damage to sandalwood trees, especially in the Hassan District where owing to the special attention paid by the Deputy Commissioner as many as 160 cases were decided, the pendency still continues to be heavy. The attention of the Deputy Commissioners is again drawn to this heavy pendency and they are requested to see to the prompt disposal of these cases.

9. *Sandal Smuggling.*—The Conservator reports that owing to the distress prevailing in the year and the absence of restrictions against the removal of sandal trees by the occupants from private holdings in Bombay and Madras Presidencies, there was increased activity on the part of smugglers of sandalwood. Seventeen cases of sandalwood smuggling were detected of which 9 cases ended in conviction, in one of which in the Sorab Taluk, sandalwood worth Rs. 11,154 was recovered.

As the arrangements sanctioned in Government Order No. I. C. 5133—Ft. 14-21-5, dated 4—11th April 1922 were inadequate to cope with the organised smuggling of sandalwood across the frontier, Government sanctioned in their order dated 9th July 1924, tentatively for a period of eight months from 1st October 1924, the establishment of eight police outposts in the Malnad under an Assistant Superintendent of Police and the deputation of a Sub-Assistant Conservator with two rangers at a cost of Rs. 34,000 in all. The Conservator is requested to impress on the subordinate officers of his Department the necessity of taking special steps to put down the smuggling which, Government believe, exists to a considerable extent at present.

10. *Grazing.*—The question of providing adequate grazing facilities which was under consideration during previous years was disposed of during the year under report and a comprehensive order issued in Government Order No. I. C. 6048-60—Ft. 226-18-11, dated 4th April 1924. So far as grazing in forests is concerned, the system of prepaid permits has been ordered to be gradually abolished in favour of the "Kancha System" and the "Forest Village System."

11. *Exploitation.*—The realisations from timber during the year amounted to Rs. 7,29,559 as against Rs. 9,38,797 in the year previous, while the cost incurred on timber operations was Rs. 3,49,859 as against Rs. 3,97,946. The fall in the revenue is said to be chiefly due to the dullness of the market. Government consider that with proper organisation it should be possible to considerably increase the receipts under this head. The Conservator is requested to go fully into the question and submit proposals in this respect.

12 *Sandalwood.*—The quantity of sandalwood supplied to the Sandalwood Oil Factories during the year was 1,496 tons as against 606 tons in the year previous, the larger supply being due to the increased demand for oil and the reopening of the Factory at Mysore. The total revenue from sandalwood amounted to Rs. 13,33,128 showing an increase of about 4½ lakhs over that of the previous year.

13. *Lac Cultivation.*—This work was continued by the Special Ranger deputed for it, in 30 different localities, and 317 maunds of crude lac and 76 maunds of washed lac were sold for Rs. 8,384 as against Rs. 5,881 spent on the operations. The results are encouraging.

14. *Financial Results.*—Out of a total demand of Rs. 37,79,378, a sum of Rs. 29,07,825 was collected as against Rs. 29,70,033 in the year previous and Rs. 74,660 written off leaving a balance of Rs. 7,96,893 at the end of the year.

The heavy outstandings under some of the heads having been found to be due to the general laxity on the part of the departmental officers in enforcing the sale conditions as well as to the rules for the recovery of the Government dues, orders have been already issued drawing the attention of the Conservator of Forests to this and asking him to impress on all sale conducting officers the importance and necessity of strict adherence to rules. The Conservator is requested to see that suitable action is taken for the early adjustment of the heavy arrears that are outstanding.

15. *Kheddas.*—In connection with the visit of Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Reading, Khedda Operations were conducted in November and December 1923. Ninety-eight elephants were captured of which 47 were released as undesirable. The total expenditure on the operations includingt he amounts spent on repairs to "roads and buildings" amounted to Rs. 1,07,000.

16. *Inspection.*—The Conservator toured for 189 days and inspected all the District Forest Offices and 24 Range Offices. The District Forest Officer of Mysore has toured out the largest number of days and that of Bhadravati the smallest. No reason is given for the short itineration of the District Forest Officers of the important Divisions of Shimoga, Sagar and Bhadravati.

17. *General.*—The work of the Department has proceeded very much on usual lines and there are no indications of any attempt to take up problems of development. Even with regard to routine administration, Government consider that more energetic action is necessary in regard to the collection of outstanding arrears, the supervision of sandal forests and the prevention of sandal smuggling.

K. V. ANANTARAMAN,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Sakunibasavanahalli and Siddarahalli.

READ—

Government Order No. R. 3753-56—R. M. 18-22-2, dated the 1st March 1923, directing the removal, from the list of villages in the Kadur District, of Sakunibasavanahalli and Siddarahalli and the inclusion therein of Srinivaspur which is recognised as the name of the new village that has sprung up in their stead.

2. Letter No. 198, dated the 22nd December 1923, from the Survey Superintendent, soliciting orders in the matter of the merging of the lands of the villages abandoned, in the adjoining villages so as to enable the removal of the said villages from the list.

3. Correspondence ending with letter No. C. 2623—23-24, dated the 19—24th December 1924, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, recommending sanction to the proposal of the Deputy Commissioner, Kadur District, for merging both the villages of Sakunibasavanahalli and Siddarahalli in the Yemmedoddi kaval village which surrounds them.

ORDER No. R. 5025-8—R. M. 18-22-6, DATED 20TH FEBRUARY 1925.

The raiyats of Sakunibasavanahalli and Siddarahalli villages of Kadur Taluk, having complained in 1909 that their villages were insanitary, overgrown with lantana and infested with wild beasts, and requested that Jakkeri Amrut Mahal kaval lands may be granted to them for cultivation and for founding a new village, Government in their Order No. R. 5868-9—L. R. 7-09-41, dated the 19th April 1912, directed the grant to them of 500 acres of land out of the said kaval for the formation of a new village and for cultivation. An additional extent of 105 acres was also transferred in 1917, for the same purpose. The two old villages of Sakunibasavanahalli and Siddarahalli were accordingly abandoned and a new village sprang up on Survey No. 65 of Jakkeri Amrut Mahal kaval in the Chikmagalur Taluk. Government in their Order No. R. 3735-56—R. M. 18-22-2, dated the 1st March 1923, directed the removal from the list of villages of the two abandoned villages of Sakunibasavanahalli and Siddarahalli and the recognition of the new village as Srinivaspur.

2. The Survey Superintendent, requests orders for the merging of the lands of the abandoned villages in the neighbouring villages. The Revenue Commissioner who was consulted in the matter reports that they may be merged in the Yemmedoddi kaval which surrounds them. Government approve of the Revenue Commissioner's proposal and direct that the two abandoned villages of Sakunibasavanahalli and Siddarahalli be merged in the Yemmedoddi kaval village of the Kadur Taluk, and the new village formed out of Jakkeri Amrut Mahal kaval, *viz.*, Srinivaspur, being included in the list of the villages, Chikmagalur Taluk.

K. V. ANANTARAMAN,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Appropriation of Agricultural Lands.

READ—

Section 63 of the Land Revenue Code empowering Government at their discretion to levy a fine, as well as the assessment or a lumpsum in commutation thereof, in the case of agricultural lands appropriated for non-agricultural purposes.